

10/009884

JG16 Rev1 PCT/PTC 13 NOV 2001

Practitioner's Docket No. U 013681-9

**CHAPTER I**

**IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED OFFICE (EO/US)**

PCT/JP01/01970

13 MARCH 2001

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD, SURFACE-TREATED PRODUCT AND SURFACE  
TREATMENT APPARATUS

TITLE OF INVENTION

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APPLICANT(S)

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

ATTENTION: EO/US

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS :**

Please amend claims 46, 47 and 48 as follows:

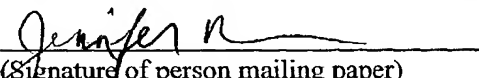
46. A treatment agent which is used in the surface treatment method according to  
claim 1.

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 1.10**

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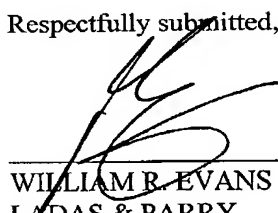
47. A surface-treated product which is characterized in that recorded matter is treated using the surface treatment method according to claim 1.

48. A surface treatment apparatus for recorded matter in which the surface of recorded matter in which images are recorded on a recording medium is treated using a treatment agent, said surface treatment apparatus comprising a treatment agent discharge part which discharges the treatment agent according to claim 1 onto the recorded matter.

Remarks

The above amendatory action is taken solely for the purpose of avoiding claim fees that would otherwise accrue due to the presence of multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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46. A treatment agent which is used in the surface treatment method according to [claims 1 through 45] claim 1.

47. A surface-treated product which is characterized in that recorded matter is treated using the surface treatment method according to [claims 1 through 45] claim 1.

48. A surface treatment apparatus for recorded matter in which the surface of recorded matter in which images are recorded on a recording medium is treated using a treatment agent, said surface treatment apparatus comprising a treatment agent discharge part which discharges the treatment agent according to [claims 1 through 45] claim 1 onto the recorded matter.